A meeting of Margaretting Parish Council took place at The Village Hall, Wantz Road on Thursday 12th January 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

Present: H Blurton, T Boem, W Cant, P Quilter, P Savill (Chairman), M Scott, A Smith & K Young.

Also present were three members of the public.

**101 Apologies** were received from Cllr I Grundy

**102 Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

**103 Democratic Time**

1. Ray Ashdown thanked the Parish Council for having the grass around the bollards strimmed. He reported that the ‘Watch your Speed’ sign opposite ‘The Martins’ in Main Road was facing the wrong way. **P Savill** to report. He also reported that the 40 mph sign by ‘Bishops Court’ was smaller than the original sign and the signs in the village needed cleaning ; H Blurton explained that the newer signs are smaller but still legal – if the gateway project goes ahead the signs would be coming down anyway. It was emphasised to Mr Ashdown that the maintenance and cleaning of the village gateways would be the responsibility of the parish council. **Clerk** to add the cleaning of signs onto the list of jobs for the borough council to do. **P Savill** to request the new island signs come down and to enquire about white lining in Wantz Road.
2. Karin Arora spoke of her dismay at the position of the new pedestrian crossing island on the crest of the hill; she had experienced difficulty pulling out of her driveway and also thought the centre of the island was too narrow for buggies. P Savill explained that she had spoken to Paul Norris (ECC) whose comments were;

* This was the best place for the crossing to go.
* It was the most visible point for pedestrians
* The footpaths leading to the crossing were overgrown and he was to arrange for the vegetation to be cut back.
* He had been surprised at the speed of traffic using the road.
* The high mast is there because of the crest of the hill

P Savill reported that previously Graham Livings and Louise Lockwood had visited and agreed the site. M Scott advised K Arora to register her complaint with CBC. It was reported that I Grundy was working with the speed review team to decrease the limit to 30 mph. K Young fully supported the crossing; it was in an ideal position where you could see up and down the hill and it was far safer than crossing by Peacocks. As far as he was aware most parents were using the crossing and were satisfied with it.

**104. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2011 were agreed and signed as a true and correct record.

**105. Matters Arising**

a. Dog Poo Bin – Clerk had spoken to Dog Warden who was to look at the site and organise the bin.

b. Bin for Shelter – Clerk had the bin and was waiting for two quotes. **H Blurton** to spray the area where it was to go.

c. Mounting Block – Nothing to report, Clerk had sent an e mail to G Sharpe but had had no response.

d. Bridleway 22 – M Scott explained that after speaking to a colleague it may make things worse if done.

**106. Parish Council Membership**

P Savill reported that N Marshall had resigned. She outlined the procedure to have someone co-opted onto the Parish Council. Vacancy notices will be posted on the parish notice boards. **Clerk** to inform Chelmsford Council. **C Quilter** agreed to take over N Marshall’s responsibilities at the play area in Maldon Road.

**107. Margaretting Relief in Need**

P Savill explained that the parish council nominated A Radley onto the Trust and now he has moved away there is a vacancy. She had contacted six parishioners who hadn’t shown an interest and was now waiting for a response from two others. It was agreed that she would write a piece in the Newsletter.

**108. Accounts**

P Savill reported on money paid into the bank; £800 from the V Festival and £2,210 for the War Memorial. **M Scott** to send the link to H Blurton concerning safeguarding the lead lettering on the War Memorial.

Authority was given for payment of the following

£480.72 Contribution towards Village Hall insurance.

£ 55.00 Clerk (The shortfall in December’s Cheque)

**109. Village Sites**

a. War Memorial – H Blurton explained to T Boem about the two trees at the memorial.

b. Bus Shelter – H Blurton reported that he had started doing some drawings for the shelter opposite the Black Bull.

c. Grass Verges – **H Blurton** to get a price for four oak posts to go around the island at The Tye. Highways have no direct enforcement powers to make people pay for the damage they cause to verges. He also reported that the grass verge in Maldon Road was being parked on again and he had already put a drawing into highways to have bollards put on this site. **P Savill** to speak to Wally Henderson for a contact number for the railway workers who have damaged three verges in Maldon Road.

d. Pond & Tree**s – T Boem** to organise a date to tidy around the pond, so the lime could go in and be tested before the fish go in. **K Young** to get a quote from his neighbour to build a duck house.

**T Boem** reported that he was to cut the tree by the railway line and the pear trees, he was also to get a new quote for the tree at the pond. H Blurton to give him a contact number. A Radley wanted to be involved in the planting of his tree and was to arrange a date when he would be able to come to the village. **T Boem** to liase with Lynn Cameron about the Jubilee tree which was to go on the green near the dying oak tree and to find out about having the oak removed.

**110. Maldon Road Recreation Field**

Allotments K Young reported that the water was turned off. B Wells has been unwell so he hadn’t approached the allotmenteers about water costs.

Play Area P Savill explained that she had contacted CBC who confirmed that permission isn’t needed for a skateboard ramp as long as they are under a certain size.  **K Young** to get a third quote for the ramp. P Savill reported that she would be applying to the Environment Trust for a grant once the third quote is received.

**111. Village Projects**

a. Village Gateways. There had been notification that financially Essex County Council could not help with this project.

b. Parish Council Office. **H Blurton** to drop drawings off to Ingeltons, he had already contacted them and asked them to take the project on.

c. Walkboards. **A Smith** to get another quote. **P Savill** to contact James Kennelly on progress he has made about protecting the bridge from damage.

**112. Village Website**

H Blurton explained that a planning section had been added, applications would stay on the website for six months. There would also be a link to go to the planning department to look at plans. Other things added were; forthcoming events; a list of councillors; village things; and some photographs of the village. **P Savill** to write a piece in the newsletter.

**113. Planning**

H Blurton reported that he had re registered Margaretting Parish Council on the new system from the planning department.

There were no applications for this meeting to comment on.

**114. Correspondence**

a. The clerk read a report from Kay Flemming, there had been two incidents in the village. A Smith reported a theft from Frizling Hall.

b. CBC Play in the Park – It was agreed that the Parish Council could afford £150 out of the budget to pay for something over the summer holidays. **P Savill** to find out which days are available.

c. Peacocks – P Savill reported that there had been a complaint about the peacocks and she had found someone that would come and get them but a lot of villagers would be against that. It was agreed to report this in the newsletter to see if there was a response.

d. The revised times for the recycling centre in Mountnessing were reported; closed on a Tuesday and opening at 9am instead of 8am.

e. Conservation Area Enhancement. M Scott made some suggestions. **Clerk** to notify the Sustainable Communities Department.

**115. Any Other Business**

K Young reported that he had booked the caller for the barn dance, the next jubilee meeting was the 19th January and Keith would attend.

**Clerk** to write to the owners of Elm Cottage following complaints about the large stones on the bank which could injure someone.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.28 p.m.

Date and Time of next meeting Thursday 9th February at 7.30 p.m.